

ROWING COMPETITIONS to END at BALLONA CREEK

“Ballona Creek [at Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve] is a well-used rowing channel, highly valued by rowing teams from USC, UCLA and LMU, as well as visiting competitors for rowing races. This rowing channel, from what we understand must be straight, as it is now, in order for the rowing teams to continue the use of this area – thus, this recreational boating area will be lost if this project proceeds.” ~ **Ballona Institute Draft EIS/EIR comment, Feb. 2018**



“[T]hree rowing clubs maintain boat houses in the marina and practice and compete on Ballona Creek, which provides the necessary 2,000 m stretch for competition. Alternatives 1 and 2 remove levees and reconfigure Ballona Creek. As a result, the longest straight stretch will be reduced to about 1,372 meters, so rowing competition would no longer be possible (p.3.11-11). The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are existing alternative sites for races.”

~ **California Coastal Commission Draft EIS/EIR comment, Feb. 2018**



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From the Draft EIR/EIS: "...While the majority of the creek would not be interrupted for water-related sporting activities, the reconfiguration of the channel under Alternative 1 once completed would interrupt rowing competitions. ... collegiate and other rowing competitions require a 2,000-meter straightaway (see, e.g., UCLA 2015). Upon completion of Alternative 1, the remaining straightaway [sic] following the proposed restoration would only be 1,372 meters. Thus, rowing competitions no longer would be able to be held in Ballona Creek channel.

Rowers who normally use the Ballona Creek channel also could use the Marina for training purposes; however, rowing competitions could not take place in the Marina since the Marina does not have a 2,000-meter straightaway (UCLA 2015). At this time it is unknown where these competitions would be relocated and, thus, any evaluation of environmental impacts at these new facilities would be speculative. However, rowing competitions are held at the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach so the ports are two potential replacement locations for competitions.

In addition to rowing activities, restoration activities have the potential to disrupt recreational, shore-based fisherman and kayakers that access the channel.

Similar to Alternative 1, during the implementation of Alternative 2, access to the channel would remain open and water flow would be maintained at all times. Once the Ballona Creek Bike Path is closed, fisherman and kayakers would not be able to access this portion of the channel. Although use of the channel for rowing competitions that require a 2,000-meter straightaway (see, e.g., UCLA 2015) would be precluded since the remaining straightaway following the proposed restoration would only be 1,372 meters, rowers could use other portions of the channel and all of the available Marina water for training purposes."

